

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) A ventricular assist device for a heart, which comprises:

a pump portion;

an inflow tube protruding from the pump portion; and

an adapter sleeve of a first predetermined length attached to the inflow tube forming an extended inflow tube having a total length greater than the first predetermined length, said adapter sleeve carrying an adjustable attachment member to permit attachment of the adapter sleeve to the inflow tube at a range of longitudinal positions.

2. (Currently amended) The ventricular assist device of claim 1, wherein said adapter sleeve includes [adapter sleeve of claim 1 including] a first end having a coupling in order to attach the adapter sleeve to a ventricular apex of a heart.

3. (Currently amended) The ventricular assist device of claim 2, wherein said adapter sleeve ~~adapter sleeve of claim 2~~ further comprises a sewing ring wherein the coupling attaches to said a sewing ring for attachment ~~that is attached~~ to the ventricular apex.

4. (Currently amended) The ventricular assist device ~~adapter sleeve~~ of claim 1, wherein the adapter sleeve comprises ~~is formed of~~ a smooth cylinder of titanium.

5. (Currently amended) The ventricular assist device ~~adapter sleeve~~ of claim 1, wherein said adapter sleeve includes cylindrical grooves forming perforations on the surface of the sleeve whereby ~~wherein~~ the sleeve may be separated along said grooves.

6. (Currently amended) The ventricular assist device of claim 1, wherein said adapter sleeve ~~adapter sleeve of claim 5~~ ~~wherein the sleeve~~ is formed of ceramic.

7. (Currently amended) The ventricular assist device of claim 1, wherein said adapter sleeve comprises ~~adapter sleeve of claim 1 further including~~ a gripping member for attaching the extended inflow tube to the ventricular apex.

8. (Currently amended) The ventricular assist device of claim 1 wherein the inflow tube includes a bent end.

9. (Original) The ventricular assist device of claim 1 wherein the inflow tube includes an extendable end.

10. (Original) The ventricular assist device of claim 1 wherein the inflow tube includes a rotatable end.

11. (Original) The ventricular assist device of claim 1 wherein the inflow tube includes an inner sleeve that is rotatably and slidingly mounted therein.

12. (Currently amended) A ventricular assist device for a heart, which comprises:

a pump portion;

a sewing ring;

an inflow tube protruding from the pump portion; and

an adapter sleeve of a first predetermined length attached to the inflow tube forming an extended inflow tube having a total length greater than the first predetermined length, said adapter sleeve including a first end having a coupling in order to attach the adapter sleeve to said a

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sewing ring, for attachment ~~that is attached~~ to the ventricular apex of a heart, and the adapter sleeve is formed of a smooth cylinder of titanium.

13. (Original) The ventricular assist device of claim 12 wherein the inflow tube includes an inner sleeve that is rotatably and slidably mounted therein.